

SENATE BILL 685
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-120-110, relative to safety standards and appeals on certain structures located in any area where no building codes have been adopted.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-120-110(a), is amended by designating the existing language as (a)(1) and by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

(2) Notwithstanding any provision, regulation, ruling or other administrative promulgation by any agency, board, or commission of this state, or a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state, and notwithstanding any such promulgation by an official or employee of such agency, board or commission, the following minimum standards are hereby established for integrated architectural components of the following structure in any area where no building codes have been adopted:

For any educational or recreational facility of a church, or when additions or substantial alterations are made to an existing structure being utilized for such purposes, all auditoriums, cafeteriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums with or without spectator seating, or other multi-area uses of such structure, normally occurring for educational or recreational purposes, shall be deemed to be integrated architectural components of such structure and not an assemblage of different occupancies, and no fire separation with respect to such structure shall be required solely because of various related occupancies. This provision shall in no

way affect the fire separation ratings of shafts, exits, kitchens, or boiler rooms as provided for in the Southern Building Code.

If the board of building code appeals created pursuant to § 68-120-401 ceases to exist, and in the absence of any other board designated by the general assembly to hear appeals under this chapter, then

(1) If the officials of any church to which this subdivision applies and the state fire marshal are unable to resolve their differences with respect to such structures, then notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation to the contrary, an appeal from the decision of the state fire marshal with respect to such structure shall be direct to the chancery court of the county in which such church is located;

(2) With respect to all other structures, except public buildings and schools, located in any area where no building codes have been adopted, if the owners of a structure and the state fire marshal are unable to resolve their differences with respect to a decision of the state fire marshal concerning the construction or safety of such structure, then notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation to the contrary, an appeal from the decision of the state fire marshal with respect to such structure shall be direct to the chancery court of the county in which such structure is located.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.